

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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O 281001Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7552
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN, JA
SUBJECT: MITI MINISTER TO VISIT ASEAN CAPITALS

1. SUMMARY. MITI MINISTER KOMOTO PLANS VISITS TO ASEAN
COUNTRIES DURING MAY. SOME SLIGHT MOVEMENT CONTINUES ON
ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST TO JAPAN AND ASEAN COUNTRIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY KOMOTO
WILL VISIT JAKARTA APRIL 30-MAY 2, SINGAPORE MAY 2-4,
AND KUALA LUMPUR 4-6 FOR WHAT ARE DESCRIBED AS COURTESY
CALLS ON GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN THESE ASEAN CAPITALS AND
SOME DISCUSSION OF MAJOR ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CONDITIONS.
HE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE SIMILAR VISITS TO MANILA AND
BANGKOK AFTER THE CURRENT DIET SESSION ENDS. MITI
OFFICIALS INDICATE NO PARTICULAR INITIATIVES ARE PLANNED
FOR THIS TRIP. IT IS, HOWEVER, A CONVENIENT TIME,
SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER THE MOST RECENT MEETING (NOV 1977)

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OF THE JAPAN-ASEAN FORUM, FOR JAPAN TO SHOW THAT IT
CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN A HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN ASEAN.
(WE UNDERSTAND FROM BOTH MOFA AND LOCAL ASEAN DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES THAT ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO
A VISIT TO ASEAN CAPITALS AND RANGOON BY FONMIN SONODA
IN MID-SUMMER.) MITI INFORMS US THAT ABOUT TEN MITI
STAFF MEMBERS AND NO REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MINISTRIES

WILL ACCOMPANY KOMOTO.

3. VISIT COMES SHORTLY AFTER JAPAN HAS PUT INTO EFFECT MINOR TRADE CONCESSION TO ASEAN WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED AT TIME OF PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S ASEAN VISIT LAST AUGUST. BEGINNING APRIL 1, GSP TREATMENT IS EXTENDED BY JAPAN TO GOODS ORIGINATING WITHIN ASEAN EVEN IF THEY HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM ONE ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRY TO ANOTHER BEFORE THEIR PROCESSING IS COMPLETED. PREVIOUSLY ORIGIN HAD HAD TO BE WITHIN SINGLE COUNTRY TO QUALIFY FOR GSP TREATMENT.

4. STABEX SCHEME IS STILL ALIVE BUT ASEAN-CONNECTED MITI OFFICIAL NOTES THERE STILL IS DISAGREEMENT OVER IT AMONG JAPANESE MINISTRIES; MOF IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID, REMAINS DISINCLINED TO PUT UP CASH FOR THIS PURPOSE.

5. JAPANESE ARE NOT PLANNING TO SEND ANY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM TOKYO TO MAY MANILA ASEAN TRADE FAIR BUT A DELEGATION OF FORTY-TWO JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN ORGANIZED BY THE SOUTHEAST ASIA PROMOTION CENTER FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM IN TOKYO, IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND. SHERMAN

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